

1Pm 3765
PATENT
0815-4001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Toshio HOSOGAI

Filed: July 27, 2001

Art Unit: 3765

Examiner: Alissa L. Hoey

Serial No.: 09/916,631

Confirmation: 9472

Title: IMPROVED REVERSIBLE ZIPPER FLY COVER AND
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, to submit references cited in a corresponding foreign application listed on the enclosed Form PTO 1449.

A copy of the EP Search Report dated August 2, 2004, is enclosed for indicating the reasons that the EP searcher considered the references to be relevant.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after mailing of an Office Action, but before mailing of a Final Office Action, so the a credit card authorization form, authorizing the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) is filed herewith, to ensure consideration of the cited references.

Applicant submits the following comments relating to GB 2,153,656 (the "GB patent").

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The present invention relates to a reversible garment having a symmetric reversible zipper fly cover. To assist in understanding, a cross-sectional view of the present invention is provided below:

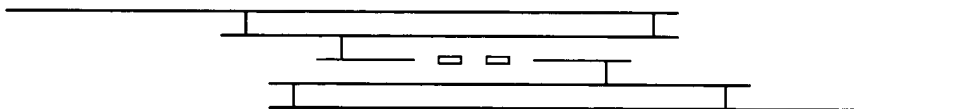
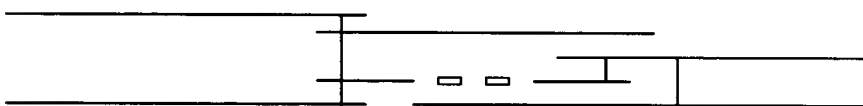


Fig. 5 of the GB patent is represented below:



In the above diagrams, thin horizontal lines represent layers of fabric, thick horizontal lines represent zipper teeth, and vertical lines represent stitching seams.

The following differences exist:

- In the present invention, the top and bottom zipper flaps are completely symmetric; whereas the GB patent has different top and bottom zipper flaps. The non-symmetry of the GB patent means the garment's appearance depends on which side is chosen to be the outside, whereas the present invention's symmetry means that the garment's appearance is the same no matter which side is chosen to be the outside.
- Excluding the zipper layer and enclosed turned-under raw edges of fabric, in the present invention, at most two layers of fabric are sewn together; whereas in the GB patent, the top (leftmost) flap has three layers of fabric sewn together. The fly covering in the GB patent is bulkier and stiffer than the fly covering of our invention. Since the fly area

compresses when the wearer sits and expands when the wearer stands, the extra bulkiness and rigidity of the GB patent's fly will render its garment less comfortable than the relatively thinner fly of the present invention.

- In the present invention, the zipper is always separated from the wearer's body AND covered from an observer by a fabric layer that extends beyond the edges of the zipper. In the GB patent, when the zipper is covered from an observer, it may chafe against the wearer's body, causing discomfort, especially if the zipper teeth abrade against the wearer's body; alternatively, if the garment is reversed, the zipper is separated from the wearer's body but the zipper layer can be visible to an observer.

A further difference is:

- In the present invention, the zipper is reversible, having a traveler guide that can be accessed from the front or rear of the zipper assembly. In contrast, the GB patent uses a conventional non-reversible zipper ("The zip fastener 16 is of the usual type", lines 69-70).

Accordingly, the following features of the claimed invention are not shown or suggested in the GB patent:

Claim 1:

a first fly cover flap formed by attaching said first zipper flap to said first panel by a first fly cover finish seam

a second fly cover flap formed by attaching said second zipper flap to said second panel by a second fly cover finish seam

wherein said reversible zipper fly cover is symmetric so that each of said first and second fly cover flaps can be used as the outside of said reversible zipper fly cover

Specifically, the GB patent fails to show forming first and second fly cover flaps as recited in claim 1, and so fails to show each of the first and second fly cover flaps being usable as the outside of the reversible zipper fly cover.

Claim 5

e. Forming a first fly cover flap by attaching the first panel zipper flap to the first panel by a first fly cover finish seam; and

f. Forming a second fly cover flap by attaching the second panel zipper flap to the second panel by a second fly cover finish seam.

See discussion for claim 1.

Claim 7

a second fly cover flap attached to a second side of the reversible garment, the second fly cover flap having the same shape as the first fly cover flap, and

a zipper having a reversible traveler guide located between the first and second fly cover flaps,

wherein the reversible fly is symmetric so that each of the first and second sides of the garment can be used as the outside of the garment

See discussion for claim 1. The GB patent further fails to show or suggest the claimed reversible traveler guide.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 8, 2005

Brenda Pomerance
Brenda Pomerance

Address:
Law Office of Brenda Pomerance
260 West 52 St. Ste. 27B
New York, NY 10019
212 245 3940



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the following attached paper(s) and/or fee

1. Information Disclosure Statement
2. Copy of EP Search Report dated August 2, 2004
3. PTO Form 1449
4. Copies of three (3) cited references
5. Credit card authorization for \$180.00
6. Return receipt postcard

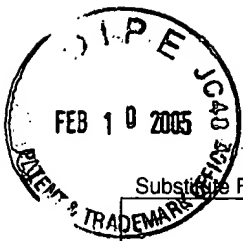
are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: February 8, 2005

Brenda Pomerance
Brenda Pomerance

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

Brenda Pomerance
Law Office of Brenda Pomerance
260 West 52 St. Ste. 27B
New York, NY 10019
212 245-3940



Substitute Form PTO 1449

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	Filing Date	July 27, 2001
	Inventor	Hosogai
	Group Art Unit	3765
	Examiner	Alissa L. Hoey
Sheet 1 of 1		Atty. Docket No. 0815-4001

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant text or Figs.
		Number	Kind Code			
	AA	3 261 024		Delaney	07-19-1966	
	AB					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Documents			Name of Patentee or Assignee	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant text or Figs.	Trsl. (v)
		Office	Number	Kind Code				
	BA	GB	2 153 656	A	Post Crown	08-29-1985		
	BB	FR	2 775 422	A	Wis	09-03-1999		

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	AUTHOR, title, magazine, date, pages, publisher, city where published	Trsl. (v)
	CA		
	CB		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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